opened the Katchal Island, a restricted area in Andaman and Nicobar Island only for a period of 6 days from 29th Dec., 1999 to 3rd January, 2000 for the visitors to give them an opportunity to view the first sunrise of the New Millennium.

(b) The Government of India did not hire any ship, but has spent an amount of Rs. 25.00 lakhs for making various arrangements for the event.

(c) Advertisements were released in newspapers and a brochure was also brought out.

Development of Katchal Island

582. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Katchal Island was developed as Tourist destination to welcome the new millennium Sunrise;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon;

(c) the earnings made from tourists; and

(d) the reasons for failure to attract substantial number of tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Katchal Island is a restricted area and also is considered ecologically fragile. To get publicity advantage of the Millennium Sunrise, arrangements for regulated visitors for 6 days from 29.12.99 to 3.1.2000 were made. An amount of Rs. 25 lakhs has been spent on various logistical arrangements. It was a publicity initiative and because of the limitations explained, the question of earnings from tourists did not arise.

Development of Tourism in Assam

583. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and utilised by Government for development of tourism in Assam during the last three years;